

East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY REPORT

Koethen Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

1 September 1953

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 17 and 22 July 1953:

25X1 17 July. Between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., individual flights were made by swept-back jet fighters, with auxiliary fuel tanks. There was a 8/10 overcast.

25X1 18 July. No air activity was observed. There was a closed ceiling and intermittent rain.

25X1 19 July. There was no air activity. The sky was 8/10 overcast and there were thunderstorms.

20 July. After 9:30 p.m., night flying was practiced by individual swept-back jet fighters. No searchlights were in operation during the flights. At 5:30 p.m., 11 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were observed at the field in addition to the 4 planes of the alert flight.

25X1 21 July. Between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., two individual take-offs were made by MiG-15s. There was a 2/10 overcast, warm and dry weather. Between 10 p.m. and midnight, individual aircraft made flights of 20 to 25 minutes duration each. During the landings, a searchlight was in operation, however the flights were made without searchlights.

25X1 22 July. Between 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters practiced flying individually and in elements of two over the field. The aircraft flew in circles 400 to 500 meters in diameter and occasionally disappeared from sight.

25X1 23 July. Between 1:20 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters, with auxiliary fuel tanks, flew individually and in elements of twos. Source observed that two elements assembled in a formation of four, subsequently circled the field, and then broke formation for individual flights. In the afternoon, low level attacks were also made at the field.

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24 July. Between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., swept-back jet fighters practiced individual flights in elements of two. There was a 5/10 overcast.

22 July. At about 3 a.m., 16 boxcars with personnel were shunted on the spur track of the field.

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2. The following aircraft and air activity were observed at the field between 20 and 28 July:

20 July. Night flying was practiced in rainy and cold weather. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., 3 MiG-15s [] were parked in front of the hangars.

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21 July. There was night flying activity.

24 July. []

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Sixteen MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were parked in the area of the hangars.

27 July. There was no air activity between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Intensive night flying was conducted up to 1 a.m. During the afternoon, 28 MiG-15s, [] were counted at the field.

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28 July. Between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., there was air activity and fair weather. []

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3. During the morning of 27 July, source repeatedly observed 4 or 5 swept-back jet fighters take off in rapid succession and individually disappeared in the clouds, which were about 7/10 thick. The take-offs and landings were made at intervals of about 25 minutes. []

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[] During the morning, about 20 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were parked near the east end of the runway. An additional 10 swept-back jet fighters were observed in the area of the hangars in the afternoon. Radio truck [] was parked at the take-off point.

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4. Between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., on 27 JULY, swept-back jet fighters [] practiced flying in formations of two, three and four, mostly above the clouds. During the night of 27/28 July, flying was practiced by swept-back jet fighters. Conventional type aircraft were observed aloft on 29 July.

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Comment. Koethen airfield was previously assumed to be occupied by two fighter regiments, one of which belongs to the fighter division in Merseburg. The assignment of the other regiment has not been determined. However, it is believed that the second regiment is directly subordinate to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. According to an observation made on 18 June, the two regiments are equipped with at least 44 MiG-15s. []

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[] 3 trains moving from Koethen to Welzow. [] on 12 August, observed the transfer from Koethen to Welzow of MiG-15s of the regiment which is probably directly subordinated to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. According to these observations, it appears credible that the regiment which is probably directly subordinate to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army was transferred to Welzow.

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